



## 10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

1922 Committee - Thursday, 30th October, 1980.

1. Mark Lennox-Boyd raised the question of the proposal to make employers liable for the first eight weeks of sickness benefit. He said that this would have a most serious effect on small businesses and said that the proposal should be shelved, at least until after the Recession had come to an end.
2. Lennox-Boyd was supported by Ralph Howell ("we are making a grave mistake"); Tim Sainsbury; Michael Shersby; and Tony Kershaw.
3. Support for the Government came from John Townend, who argued that the proposed change was a cost effective way of dealing with sick pay, and who pointed out that malingerers were more prevalent in large firms than in small; and by Nick Budgeon, who said that the over-riding need was to reduce the P.S.B.R.

*ms*

3rd November, 1980

*Ian Gow*  
Ian Gow.